

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THOMAS G. GALLAGHER JR. ON THE OCCASION OF BEING RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas G. Gallagher Jr. who is being honored by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, for 25 years of faithful service.

Mr. Gallagher has a long and distinguished history of service to his northeastern Pennsylvania community.

Mr. Gallagher was the President of the United Way of Lackawanna County from 1986 until his retirement in June of 2002.

A graduate of Scranton Preparatory School, Mr. Gallagher received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and a masters of social work degree from Fordham University. He also completed post graduate work at the National Academy of Volunteerism in Alexandria, Virginia.

Prior to his work with the United Way, Mr. Gallagher served as a caseworker for the Lackawanna County Institution District's Bureau of Aging and Bureau of Children's Services.

He also served as assistant director of the Planning Council for Social Services and Associate Director of the United Way of Lackawanna County.

In addition, he also served as a lieutenant senior grade in the United States Public Health Service at the National Institute of Health.

Mr. Gallagher serves on the board of directors of St. Francis Kitchen and the Margaret Briggs Foundation. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Scranton and he is a past president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Gallagher on this special occasion. His exemplary performance in the area of community service has improved the quality of life for all and is well deserving of this honor. Indeed, his example is an inspiration for future generations to emulate.

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate

the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team on winning the title of UIL 4A State Champions.

In his first year coaching at Highland Park, Jess Cole led the girls to their eighth consecutive win in the UIL Texas State Championship on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Those who competed at the state meet include Allison Arnold, Megan Arnold, Hannah Ferrin, Bolton Harris, Delaney Rolfe, Katy Streepey, Katy Tye, and Alex Weber. Their continued success can be attributed to their hard work, dedication, passion for swimming and a strong sense of team spirit. In addition to claiming the title of State Champions, the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team now holds the longest state record in UIL swimming and diving, matching Class A Booker's record in girls golf as the longest in Texas high school sports since record keeping began in 1910.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team for their well-deserved victory and wish them all the best in future endeavors.

MR. CARL FISHER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Carl Fisher, longtime superintendent of the Portage Parks Department. After serving the people of Portage, IN, in this capacity for the past 24 years, Carl announced his retirement from this position. In honor of Carl, a retirement party will be held by friends and members of his staff on Friday, March 14, 2008, at Sycamore Hall of Woodland Park in Portage, IN.

Following his graduation in 1964 from Grace College in Winona Lake, IN, Carl, an avid nature enthusiast, eventually went on to pursue his master's degree in recreation park administration at Indiana University. After completing his master's degree in 1975, he was hired as the district recreation supervisor for the Montgomery County Recreation and Parks Department. Carl held this position until 1977, at which time he took over as the park supervisor for the Goshen Park and Recreation Department. Carl remained in this capacity until 1983 before relocating to Northwest Indiana, where he took over as superintendent of the Portage Parks Department, a position he would faithfully serve for the next 24 years.

Since taking over at the Portage Parks Department, Carl's contributions to Northwest Indiana have stretched far beyond his everyday responsibilities as superintendent. It was in large part through his efforts that the Portage Township Community Historical Society was created. This led to the acquisition and devel-

opment of Countryside Park as a historical attraction for the City of Portage.

In addition, Carl's vision and constant efforts to improving outdoor recreation, and more specifically, trail development, in Northwest Indiana have been unparalleled. Carl was a catalyst in the formation of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's Regional Bikeways Committee, which would later become the Ped and Pedal Committee. Under his vision and leadership, which includes the establishment of the Portage Parks and Recreation Foundation, Northwest Indiana has seen a vast increase in acreage and funding obtained for the development of its parks and trails. Astonishingly, during Carl's tenure as superintendent, Portage has seen the establishment of 11 parks and 2 city-wide trails.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Carl Fisher for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the residents of Portage, IN. He has touched the lives of many residents and visitors in Northwest Indiana. While we will all miss Carl's true service and uncompromising dedication, I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BARNESVILLE, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the dedicated people of Barnesville, Ohio celebrate the 200th anniversary of the found of Barnesville, Ohio with great joy; and

Whereas, this occasion is a time to look back at the origins of the town and appreciate how much it has grown from its first days as a hunting and trapping community in an infant country; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with hard work and perseverance will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this town as a beacon of light in the representation of America and maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in your gracious commitment in unity to stand as a model community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Barnesville for your hard work and perseverance, recognizing that all great communities come from great people. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this town has had in Ohio and in the lives of those people you have touched.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING ARBELLA PERKINS
EWING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arbella Perkins Ewing in celebration of her 114th birthday on Thursday, March 13, 2008.

As the third-oldest living person in the world and the second-oldest living American, Ms. Ewing is a fixture of the Dallas community.

Born in 1894 on a farm in Freestone County, Mississippi, as one of 12 children and the great-granddaughter of Mississippi slaves, Ms. Ewing endured continual racial problems that eventually led to her move to Dallas. In 1936, she and her husband Frank settled into a house in South Dallas, where she lived until she was 106.

As a wife and a mother to one daughter, Ms. Ewing not only made sure to keep a clean house for her own family, but extended her charity beyond her own home, often cooking for her sick neighbors.

Known as a God-fearing woman, her faith has greatly contributed to her way of life. I am reminded of a quote by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important." I can truly say that the quality of Ms. Ewing's life extends past even her longevity. Her reputation for "good living" includes not smoking or drinking, eating healthily, and not staying out late. She serves as an example for all of us to honor our bodies and cherish our health.

After her husband and daughter passed away in the 1970s, Ms. Ewing lived an independent and self-sufficient life until a fall that broke her hip in 2007 at the age of 113. Ms. Ewing's strength and resolve has seen her through this rough time of surgery into recovery much as it saw her through the years of the Great Depression, Jim Crow segregation and the Civil Rights Era.

Ms. Ewing stands as a beacon of will and determination. She makes us all mindful that a life well spent is a life worth living.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Arbella Perkins Ewing on reaching the monumental age of 114. I wish her continued life, good health and strength.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Congressional Review Act Improvement Act.

This legislation would cut government waste by reducing duplicative paperwork and relieving some of the administrative burdens that are currently mandated by the Congressional Review Act, the congressional review mechanism of agency rules. The Congressional Review Act requires that all agencies promulgating a rule must submit to both Houses of Congress, and to the Comptroller General at

the Government Accountability Office, a report that contains a copy of the rule, a concise general statement describing the rule, and the proposed effective date of the rule. Thus, under current law, the same material is submitted, housed, and printed at four different governmental entities.

Specifically, this legislation would eliminate the requirement that agencies submit their rules that are printed in the Federal Register to each House of Congress. Instead of receiving the full submission of each individual rule, the House and Senate would receive a weekly list of all rules from the Comptroller General. The House and Senate would then enter that list into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with a statement of referral for each rule. Under these revisions, agencies would still be required to submit rules and reports to each House of Congress that were not printed in the Federal Register, and Congress could still employ the procedures in the Congressional Review Act to disapprove agency rules.

I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors to this legislation that makes commonsense modifications of the Congressional Review Act.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD S. LOPEZ

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of LTC Donald S. Lopez, a military aviation pioneer and decorated hero who recently passed away at the age of 84.

Colonel Lopez was born on July 15, 1923, in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from the Air Force Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering and a master's degree in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology.

In preparation for World War II, Colonel Lopez enlisted and received his pilot's license in 1943. He was promptly sent to China and served with many veterans of the legendary American Flying Tigers, flying 101 missions and recording five victories, qualifying him to be recognized as an "ace."

Upon his return from China, Colonel Lopez was an Air Force test pilot for 6 years and went on to fly F-86s in Korea. During the next 6 years, he taught aeronautics at the Air Force Academy. During his military career, Colonel Lopez earned the Silver Star, two awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and three awards of the Air Medal.

Following his retirement from the Air Force in 1964, Colonel Lopez worked as a systems engineer on the Apollo-Saturn Launch Vehicle and the Skylab Orbital Workshop.

Colonel Lopez joined the Smithsonian in 1972 and was instrumental in planning the National Air and Space Museum. He served as deputy director of the museum from 1983 until 1990 and returned to the position in 1996.

I had the honor of meeting with Colonel Lopez while preparing to lead a congressional delegation to China last August. Colonel Lopez provided me with valuable insight into the experiences of the American Flying Tigers who worked with the Chinese military during World War II and the courageous pilots who

flew supplies to them over the treacherous Hump Route from India at great peril.

Our visit to Kunming, China for a memorial ceremony and meeting with Chinese World War II veterans was an unforgettable and powerful reminder of the extraordinary service provided to our country by patriots such as Colonel Lopez.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Lopez served our Nation with the utmost dedication and is a true American hero. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Glindal Lopez; their two children, Don and Joy; and Laura, his granddaughter.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL MASTER SINGERS PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a talented high school choir in my district, the State College Area High School Master Singers of State College, PA, which was chosen to perform at New York City's world-renowned Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

The State College Area High School Master Singers were selected out of dozens of high schools across the country to perform in this concert. The event featured 200 students from four States, and was the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert was conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who was working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Known best for their legendary musical performances, Carnegie Hall is also a pioneer of music education, and I am thrilled that these students were given such a remarkable opportunity to showcase their talent.

Led by Robert Drafal, the Master Singers is comprised of sophomores, juniors and seniors, and performs in a variety of venues as well as performing at the Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Invitational, The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, and The Celebration of African American Spirituals. The Master Singers have distinguished themselves in earning superior ratings at adjudicated festivals in New York City, Toronto, Virginia Beach, and Chicago. They were invited to participate in a master class with the famed a cappella ensemble Chanticleer, and they have collaborated with the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra and with the State College Choral Society and Orchestra in a performance featuring Metropolitan Opera Audition winners.

I am privileged to have one of the four schools in the Nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival residing in my Pennsylvania district. I commend these students and their leaders for their accomplishment, and congratulate them for representing the State of Pennsylvania in their performance at the famed Carnegie Hall on March 10th.

RECOGNIZING THE HURLBURT AFA
CHAPTER 398 TEACHER OF THE
YEAR SELECTIONS FOR 2007–2008

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Teachers of the Year.

First, I would like to congratulate, Mr. Leo F. Murphy, who received the High School and Overall Teacher of the Year award. A teacher at Choctawhatchee High School, Mr. Murphy is deeply passionate about aviation and aerospace education. He began the first aviation and aerospace education program in the Okaloosa County School District and is the driving force behind its success. A retired U.S. naval officer, Mr. Murphy has over 4,000 hours flying time earned in his 30-year career. He instructs at both Choctawhatchee and Crestview High Schools, and Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 is proud to recognize him.

Second, I would like to honor Ms. Shannon E. Farrell, the AFA Chapter's selection for the Middle School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Farrell teaches eighth-grade Physical Science at Woodlawn Beach Middle School. She incorporates engineering, science and technology into her classroom. Ms. Farrell also sponsors the school's Boosting Engineering Science and Technology, BEST, Robotics Club. The 60 students in her club have competed at local and regional events, and are now preparing to compete in the Physics Olympics at the University of West Florida.

It is also with great honor for me to recognize the co-winners of the Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 selections for the Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Megan L. Tucker teaches fourth-grade students at Kenwood Elementary School and was named her school's teacher of the year for 2006–2007. She augments the discussion of aviation in the classroom with guest speakers. Ms. Tucker has teamed with the USAF Armament Museum to assist in the development of the "Engineers for America" initiative, which incorporates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, into various activities. She has also coordinated with the Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute, Bob Skies Airport, and the Experimental Aircraft Association to introduce her students to the thrill of flight.

Lastly, it is with honor for me to recognize another outstanding teacher, Mr. Scott Erickson. He is a fourth-grade teacher at the W.H. Rhodes Elementary School. Since 2005, he has taught math, reading, writing, science and social studies. To engage his students in learning he has incorporated a variety of aviation related items into all facets of his teaching. He integrated items gleaned from a Hurlburt Chapter Teacher Workshops to improve reading skills and institute a rocket building program for his students. His latest endeavor is integrating reading, math, technology, geometry, and engineering procedures into a dynamic lesson involving simulated flight from point to point using sectional charts, videos, and written instruction. During this lesson, students measure angles, figure area of a triangle and circle, compute speed, figure

averages, record data, and work as a team to achieve a final answer. Mr. Erickson is using the science, technology, engineering and mathematics aspects of aerospace and aviation to motivate his students to learn, explore, and discover.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Hurlburt Field AFA Chapter 398 Teacher of the Year selections.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ER-
NEST L. TODD AND LENA M.
TODD ON THEIR 75TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, March 11, 2008, marks the day Ernest and Lena Todd have been lovingly married for 75 years; and

Whereas, their marriage represents the true spirit of love, compromise and support; and

Whereas, their life together from humble beginnings as a coal mining family in Tennessee have prospered into a loving extended family in Ohio consisting of 260 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, Ernest and Lena Todd represent the belief that love is eternal and will overcome all obstacles, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse—forever; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Ernest and Lena Todd a happy and healthy 75th wedding anniversary. We recognize the amazing commitment of love, friendship, and support these two people have made to each other and their family and the brightness and hope they have brought to those they have touched.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my alma mater, California State University, Fullerton, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

In 1957, California State University, Fullerton, was founded by an act of the California Legislature. The enrollment consisted of 452 students when the first classes were offered in leased quarters at Sunny Hills High School, prior to the College moving to temporary buildings on a permanent site in 1960.

Half a century after its founding, more than 185,000 graduates have successfully developed careers in hundreds of industries.

Each year, more than 36,000 students attend classes at Cal State Fullerton, choosing from among 105 different degree programs including 55 undergraduate, 49 graduate and a doctorate in education, at eight distinct colleges: arts, business and economics, commu-

nications, education, engineering and computer science, health and human development, humanities and social sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics, all of which provide an outstanding education to the students.

Its studies have led students to careers in teaching, nursing, business, the arts, communications, health care, engineering, sports, the sciences and more. Cal State Fullerton graduates have gone on to successful careers and community-building, and their impact is felt not only in the State of California and the Nation, but throughout the world. Among these graduates are Academy Award-winning actors and screenwriters, television news reporters, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, successful novelists, doctors, lawyers, judges, teachers, professional athletes, entrepreneurs, legislators, scientists and business leaders and even a NASA astronaut who served on the crew of the Space Shuttle Endeavor that launched into space in August 2007.

Cal State Fullerton's student body also reflects the diversity of the State of California. As one of the most diverse campuses in the State, the university welcomes students of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions. In fact, many of these students are the first in their families to earn a university diploma.

The university received full accreditation from the Western College Association, later known as Western Association of Schools and Colleges, in 1961 and Cal State Fullerton now holds 14 national accreditations and associations.

In addition, "Titan Pride" has been the rallying cry for 12 national team championships in seven different sports.

Finally, Cal State Fullerton is known for its distinguished faculty, many of whom have garnered international and national reputations in their respective fields.

It is with great pride that I recognize Cal State Fullerton for 50 wonderful years.

RECOGNITION OF ANNA ROSE
LIVINGSTON

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generous spirit of third grader Anna Rose Livingston, a resident of my hometown of Syracuse, New York.

Approximately 2 months ago, Anna Rose viewed a film on the life of Mother Teresa during her Sunday school class at Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church. Moved by the work of the Catholic missionary to combat poverty and suffering in India and around the world, Miss Livingston developed a plan with the encouragement of her mother Sharon to gather and collect outdoor winter clothing for needy families in central New York.

The following week during the announcement portion of Sunday services at Bellevue Heights, 8-year-old Anna Rose stood to address the congregation and ask for their assistance in her developing effort. Later that week, she petitioned her teacher and principal at the Bishop's Academy at Most Holy Rosary to have the school's third graders join in her service project.

Today, three large parcels of hats, gloves, and coats have been assembled for delivery to families struggling to combat Syracuse's harsh winter weather, and Anna Rose has secured Brown Memorial United Methodist Church and its neighborhood missions on Syracuse near westside to assist in distribution.

Anna Rose Livingston's initiative and effort is a fine example of the compassion and giving spirit that exists in so many Americans, but Anna Rose's age and lack of prior experience in such a large service initiative make her motivation and success that much more remarkable.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I proudly recognize Anna Rose for her community service and express great hope that her selflessness and success will motivate similar efforts of charity throughout my hometown community and across this great nation by people of all ages.

INTRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2008

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2008, which was marked up and reported favorably by the Committee on Homeland Security on March 6, 2008.

This bill will extend and strengthen the Department of Homeland Security's current authority to regulate security practices at our Nation's chemical facilities. This legislation must be enacted to ensure that there is no lapse in our efforts to protect the Nation's chemical infrastructure from the threat of terrorism. The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards regulations currently in effect will sunset in October 2009. The passage of this legislation is needed to update and improve those regulations and to make them permanent.

Shielding the Nation's critical infrastructure from foreign and domestic terrorism is one of my eight goals in charting the course toward freedom from fear. As I see it, extending DHS's authority to regulate chemical security is the right thing to do, and this legislation does it the right way.

For 4 months, the committee undertook a bipartisan effort to develop this legislation. There were extensive discussions with the Department, the chemical industry, including both large and small chemical manufacturers, fertilizer manufacturers, petroleum and propane manufacturers and distributors, water and wastewater facilities, environmental groups, labor organizations, State Governments, and academic and independent experts. The legislation I am introducing today with every Democratic Member of the Committee on Homeland Security is the product of this open, bipartisan process.

Given this effort, where the ranking member of the full committee and Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection were involved in every aspect of this legislation, I was very disappointed that the Republican Members, with few exceptions, chose partisanship over progress and voted against the bill. The dis-

agreement that was cited was over whether all regulated chemical facilities, or just a subset, should be required to assess whether or not they could incorporate practices to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack in their processes. For the record, the bill requires only facilities assigned to a risk-based tier to undertake such an assessment. This is done to decrease the likelihood of a potential attack in the first place. That's just plain sensible.

This legislation does not seek to reinvent the wheel, as the Democratic Members of this committee believe that the fundamental approach taken under the existing chemical security regulations is the correct one. At the same time, the bill seeks to make several improvements to the program after the sunset expires. For instance, the current chemical security regulations exempt water treatment facilities regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and port facilities regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act. This bill does not have such an exemption and calls for the CFATS to work smoothly with the existing authorities. Testimony by the Department at previous hearings before this committee demonstrated that facilities with the exemption possess the same chemicals and are as proximate to major metropolitan areas as the currently regulated facilities. The testimony revealed there is no rational public policy reason to exempt them from the chemical security regime.

The bill also recognizes that water facilities need to be treated differently than other facilities. That is why we included provisions to require that the Secretary must provide funding for those that are required to implement inherently safer technology, IST. The bill also bars the Secretary from issuing any order or guidance under these regulations that contravenes laws, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act, and restricts the Secretary from enforcing "cease operations" orders against water facilities unless their operation represents a clear and present danger to homeland security. The provisions are intended to ensure that this legislation will not cause water to be less safe for communities.

The bill also protects the rights of States to pass their own regulations to secure chemical facilities so long as they do not directly conflict with this legislation; requires employee training and involvement of employees and their representatives in creating vulnerability assessments and security plans; creates strong whistleblower protections, and protects against illegitimate use of background checks.

I know that once this bill leaves this committee, there will be an effort to weaken it. I hope, however, that Congress will not allow narrow interests to interfere with the national security imperative of securing our chemical sector from terrorists. Only through the comprehensive approach laid out in this bill will we address our Nation's current vulnerability to a massive chemical attack using our own infrastructure against us. Exempting some facilities will make us less safe because those facilities, by their exemption, could become more likely to be attacked.

I hope that Congress will do the right thing to deliver to the American people freedom from fear of such a chemical attack by moving forward expeditiously to pass this legislation and make it law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, please excuse my absence from votes on Monday, March 10, 2008. My flight was delayed due to mechanical problems. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each rollcall vote: 108, 109, and 110.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON OIL LEASE SALE IN THE CHUKCHI SEA

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the Interior Department is currently considering whether to list the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act as a result of the impacts of global warming. While this decision has been nearly 3 years in the making, the Fish and Wildlife Service has now missed deadline after deadline for finalizing a decision on the future of the polar bear. On January 9, the Interior Department missed its statutorily required deadline for a decision, as required under the Act. Then, 1 month later, it missed its self-imposed deadline. Now, the decision on listing the polar bear, and the survival of this iconic species, is hanging in limbo.

Meanwhile, Secretary Kempthorne decided to move forward with an oil and gas lease sale in 30 million acres of sensitive polar bear habitat in Alaska's Chukchi Sea last month rather than wait until after a decision on the polar bear had been made.

The bulk of this legislation that I am introducing today is identical to H.R. 5058, which already has wide support from Members of the House. H.R. 5058 would have required the Interior Department to delay the oil lease sale in the Chukchi Sea until it had made a decision on listing the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act. The legislation that I am introducing today would delay the next steps in the oil leasing process until after the Interior Department makes decisions on the polar bear and on establishing the bear's "critical habitat." This legislation would not prevent the next steps in the oil drilling process from ever occurring, but rather simply ensure that the Department first decides how to protect the polar bear.

It is disappointing that Secretary Kempthorne chose not to delay the lease sale until after the polar bear listing decision had been made. The legislation that I am introducing today would restore common sense to this regulatory lunacy by ensuring that we figure out how to protect the polar bear before taking any additional steps towards allowing oil drilling in key polar bear habitat. Secretary Kempthorne and his agency must not move any farther down the path they are taking of drill first and ask questions later—a well-worn path in this administration. If this administration refuses to stop the oil drilling process until after it figures out how to protect the polar bear from global warming, then the Congress must step in to protect the polar bear and the taxpayers.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
GENE MACDONALD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Gene MacDonald is the founding president of the Appalachia Development District and served admirably with that association, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association for 30 years; and

Whereas, he is a 30-year board member of the Muskingum Area Technical College/Zane State College; and

Whereas, Gene MacDonald worked as the Zanesville Industrial Program Executive for 14 years; and

Whereas, he served as the director of planning and physician recruitment at Bethesda Hospital/Genesis Health Care System for 21 years; therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Gene MacDonald for his contributions to his community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 10, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 108–110. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 108—"yea"—National 9–1–1 Education Month; rollcall No. 109—"yea"—E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building; rollcall No. 110—"yea"—Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex Post Office Building.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
ORAL HEALTH REHABILITATIVE
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman CANTOR (R-VA) to introduce budget neutral legislation that will strengthen and enhance the Medicare program by allowing dentists and the surgical arm of dentistry to refer their patients directly to physical therapy, PT, services. This necessary legislation will save significant time and Medicare resources by allowing qualified dental professionals to directly refer and establish their patient's rehabilitative process.

This simple yet necessary legislative fix will permit physical therapy services to be furnished under the Medicare program to individuals under the care of a dentist. Current Medicare statute prohibits the direct referral of patients for PT under the care of dentists as well as oral and maxillofacial surgeons, OMS.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons, the surgical arm of dentistry, regularly treat patients with

medical conditions that require physical therapy. These conditions include, but are not limited to, facial trauma such as jaw fractures, temporomandibular joint disorder, TMJ, and reconstruction procedures subsequent to pathological and/or congenital anomalies. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons undergo rigorous hospital-based education and training that allows them to perform complex surgical procedures of the head and neck. Nationally, they treat thousands of patients each year.

Unfortunately, current Medicare law prohibits an oral and maxillofacial surgeon from directly referring their patients for physical therapy services. Instead, a dentist or OMS must first refer their patients back to an allopathic or osteopathic physician and work with such a physician to establish a therapy plan when an OMS believes physical therapy should be part of their patient's treatment. Such consultation has proven to be inefficient, unnecessary and cumbersome, and it ultimately delays patient treatment and the continuum of care.

Congressman CANTOR and I are proud to have crafted a budget neutral bill that will allow patients to access necessary PT services, restore their oral health and quality of life, and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and cost that currently slow the rehabilitative process.

My colleague and I would like to thank our local New Jersey and Virginia oral and maxillofacial surgical communities as well as the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, AAOMS, for supporting this legislation and working closely with us to improve patient access to oral health physical therapy services.

IN HONOR OF DR. W. JOE LEWIS

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Dr. W. Joe Lewis of Tifton, GA, on the occasion of his selection as a recipient of the 2008 Wolf Foundation Prize in Agriculture. This prize is given annually to recognize the achievements of outstanding scientists in six fields and comes with a \$100,000 award.

Dr. Lewis is being honored by the Wolf Foundation for his key role in discovering mechanisms governing plant-insect and plant-plant interactions. His scientific contributions have greatly assisted the development of an ecologically sound approach to integrated pest management and have helped to advance agricultural sustainability worldwide.

Madam Speaker, this award is just one example of Dr. Lewis's scientific contributions. Long recognized as a leader in the field of research entomology, his work has been featured in more than 200 scientific publications and highlighted on a number of broadcast programs. Dr. Lewis is often sought out by others for his knowledge and experience, and has mentored numerous students and scientists who are now making their mark on the world through their own scientific contributions.

Although recognized for his achievements, Dr. Lewis began life humbly as a sharecropper's son in Mississippi. His college stud-

ies led him into entomology and eventually brought him to Georgia.

From 1967 until his retirement in 2006, Dr. Lewis was a researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Tifton, Georgia, and also held adjunct faculty positions with both the University of Georgia and the University of Florida. In his time with the USDA, the Secretary of Agriculture promoted him to supergrade rank, and his numerous grant awards included \$4.3 million to explore the possibility of training insects as biological detectors.

Dr. Lewis has also been active in civic and community affairs. For more than a decade, he has served as the vice mayor of Tifton, GA. Previously, he served as a member of the city council and was involved with his community's downtown development and historic preservation. He also served on the board of elections, planning and zoning, and mental health services.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in recognizing the scientific and civic achievements of this great Georgian and American.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. GRAFF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, tonight many of Tom Graff's friends and associates will be honoring his career and accomplishments at a dinner in California. Because I can't make it to Sacramento for tonight's dinner, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great leaders, strategists, and intellectual engines of the environmental movement of the last several decades.

Tom Graff founded Environmental Defense Fund's California office in 1971, and he has been one of the most influential, effective, and important voices in California environmental policy—and especially in the water world—ever since. Indeed, Tom has been deeply involved in the messy and fascinating world of water politics and policy since before I came to Congress. Not many people can say that.

Over our decades of friendship, Tom has frequently been a lifesaver to me, to my staff, and frankly to the people of California. He always looks for solutions, even to the most intractable problems, and whenever we've needed to get the latest thinking on environmental policy water policy, the first call we make is to Tom.

Now, despite his genius, he hasn't always seen the wisdom of my approach to every specific issue, so from time to time, I have been on the receiving end of his strong—even passionate—views. But every interaction with Tom is educational, and leaves you wiser at the end of the day.

Among many other accomplishments, Tom's negotiating prowess and his wisdom were critical to the passage of legislation that I authored in 1992 to protect the Bay-Delta of California: the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

The CVPIA took us many years to put together, and Tom's hard work is visible throughout the statute. One of Tom's great insights was in advocating for, and helping to

develop, the water-marketing agreements that helped bring the business world and the urban water community on board. His work on water marketing has always been ahead of his time: he was early to the idea that market forces can be brought to bear on conservation and the protection of water and other public goods.

This is a great example of Tom's ability to look at new ideas and adapt them to environmental improvements, which has always been an incredible strength, one matched by very few people—too few, really—in the world of environmental policymaking.

Nothing in California water politics is easy, as the people gathered in Sacramento tonight can attest, and Tom is one of the very few people who can broker an agreement between the north and the south, between State and Federal politicians, between Democrats and Republicans, and of course, between Democrats and other Democrats.

Tom is a great friend, and a great ally. I have relied on his counsel for 30 years, and whenever a new issue crops up that requires an innovative strategy, I turn to him—and so do many, many others.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff, and all of our colleagues in Congress who have benefited from his guidance and advice, it is my honor to recognize Tom Graff.

HONORING GAIL SWARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gail Nanette Sward for her dedication to her family, business and community. Mrs. Sward passed away at her home in Oakdale CA, surrounded by her family on Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Gail Sward was born and raised in Stanislaus County; she attended Turlock schools and graduated from Turlock High School in 1959. On March 1, 1966, Sward Trucking began operating out of Oakdale, as a sole proprietorship and became a California Corporation on September 1, 1977. Mrs. Sward was the co-founder of Sward Trucking and helped to build it from the ground up. Today Sward Trucking operates 50 tractors and 100 trailer units to transport a number of commodities including: lumber, roofing, insulation and related building materials, corrugated paper, waste paper, glass containers, empty cans, plastic bottles, case goods and plastic pipe. The company transports goods throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Mrs. Sward was only more dedicated to one other thing in her life, her family.

Mrs. Sward was a mother, a businesswoman, a community advocate and leader. She was a past president of the Oak Valley Hospital Foundation, past president of OLGA, director and past president of the Stanislaus County Fair Board. She was also a board member of Private Industry Council and past president of the Oak Valley Hospital Board. She has been honored for her services in a number of ways. In 1996 Mrs. Sward was a delegate to the Republican Convention. In 1998 she was named the Stanislaus County Outstanding Woman of the Year and the 1999 Legislative Woman of the Year.

Mrs. Sward is survived by her husband of 47 years, Vic Sward, her children; Sandra West and Eric Sward; her grandchildren; Sara Shipman, Nic West and her great grandchildren; Cameron, Kaidyn, Cole and Case.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Gail Sward for her dedication to her family, her business and her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ZANE STATE COLLEGE FOR ITS NO. 9 RANKING OF BEST 2-YEAR COLLEGES IN THE NATION, AS REPORTED BY WASHINGTON MONTHLY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Zane State College in Zanesville, Ohio, has achieved the distinction of being ranked the 9th Best 2-Year College in the Nation, as reported by Washington Monthly magazine.

Whereas, this ranking is based on Zane State College's graduation rates that are approaching three times the national average and on student feedback as collected in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, which measures how well the Nation's 2-year colleges use teaching techniques that lead to better learning; and

Whereas, 43 percent of all college freshmen begin their education at 2-year institutions, which is an important reason for comparing effectiveness and student experiences at 2-year colleges; and

Whereas, Zane State College's academic challenge, high student-faculty interaction, support for learners, and above-average graduation rates are testaments to Zane State College's impressive ability to meet the needs of its students, many of whom are the first in their families to ever attend college; and

Whereas, collaborative support from the community surrounding Zane State College has played an important role in the success of these students as well; and

Whereas, Zane State College's well-deserved ranking is also due to the highly effective leadership demonstrated by its president and its supportive boards. Thanks to this leadership, and to a philosophy of "personal touch" demonstrated by faculty and staff, Zane State College has rightfully earned its rank as one of the best 2-year colleges in America; and be it

Resolved, that along with its friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Zane State College for its outstanding service to students, families, and the Zanesville community. Congratulations to Zane State College on its ranking as number 9 among 2-year colleges in the U.S.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, with my wife and our new daughter who was born on Monday, March 3. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 103: "nay"; Rollcall No. 104: "nay"; Rollcall No. 105: "yea"; Rollcall No. 106: "nay"; Rollcall No. 107: "nay."

WOMEN'S HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's Heritage Month to commend the accomplishments of two astonishing black women, Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks and Ms. Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis of Dallas, Texas.

Born, raised and educated in south Dallas, Ms. Mitchell-Brooks received a master's degree in genetics from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, becoming the first African-American to achieve the degree in pure science from the school. In 1990, she became the first woman to head the Urban League of Greater Dallas, which has set the path for future generations of young women. Under her leadership, the Urban League built its first permanent headquarters and state of the art technology center in the heart of Oak Cliff.

Currently serving as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Dallas, Dr. Brooks has also served as executive director of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission, director of public affairs for Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and director of the Martin Luther King Center.

I pay tribute to another prominent Dallas community leader, my dear friend who left us on March 1, 2008, Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis. Throughout her life, Nellie Lewis was a well-known, respected figure in Dallas who leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that will be remembered for years to come.

Mrs. Lewis moved to Dallas in 1977 with her late husband Dr. Lewis, where they were both employed with the Dallas Independent School District. During her 20 years with DISD, Mrs. Lewis' duties included serving as an instructional specialist, a curriculum coordinator and an area director. She also served as director of learning services, the administrative assistant to four superintendents and supervisor to a group of 10 elementary school principals.

In 1997, Mrs. Lewis received the Charles D. Moody Founder's Award, presented by the National Alliance of Black School Educators. As our Nation experiences great technological innovation and success in the global market, the value of an education takes on even greater importance. Mrs. Lewis has exhibited the characteristics we seek in our educators, school administrators, and community activists.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize and commend these two prominent women Dr. Beverly

Mitchell Brooks and Ms. Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis of Dallas, Texas.

HONORING TANYA MARTIN OUBRE PEKEL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Tanya Martin Oubre Pikel of Miami, Florida.

On Monday, May 22, 2006, this great pioneering young woman succumbed to a nearly 3-year battle with breast cancer at the age of 41. Her untimely passing will truly leave a deep void in our midst.

A native of Miami, Mrs. Martin Pikel was born on October 3, 1964. She graduated with honors from North Miami Senior High School. During that time she served as a page for U.S. Representative William Lehman and worked as a clerk for attorney H.T. Smith. Later, she earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University, and in 1989 she received her juris doctorate from Duke's School of Law.

Mrs. Martin Pikel continued on to work as a corporate attorney before being appointed a White House Fellow by President Clinton in 1995. Under this appointment, she became an associate director of Education and Policy Planning in the White House. In 1999, she accepted the position of Chief of Staff to Superintendent Patricia Harvey of Saint Paul Public Schools in St. Paul, Minnesota and served in the position for 6 years. In 2003, she was named one of that city's up and coming leaders.

Her commitment to public service and her community was evident from a young age. Throughout her life, she taught music, drama, dance, and Sunday school to children in an inner-city ministry. In addition, she volunteered as a tutor and mentor for at-risk youth.

Tanya Martin Oubre Pikel's life was a triumph. She was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. Though she was taken from them far too early in her life, memories of her will live on in the heart of her family forever.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Martin Pikel, and I mourn her loss. She will be missed by all who knew her. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family—her mother, Marcia Saunders; father, Montez Martin Jr.; husband, Kent; daughters, Lauren and Victoria; son, Adam; sisters, Terrie Rayburn and Emily Martin; brother, Montez C. Martin III; and grandmother, Elise Martin.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express my strong support for H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addic-

tion Equity Act of 2007. As a former social worker serving in the United States Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill and am pleased to see it passed in the House of Representatives.

In my previous career, I worked with people affected by mental illnesses and substance abuse. Having seen the devastating effects these illnesses have on people's lives and their communities, I am glad my fellow Members of Congress also recognize that mental health services are absolutely critical to helping individuals regain control over their lives.

For years, people with mental illnesses have faced restrictions on the number of visits they can make to their providers and financial limitations which are either too restrictive or too costly for them to receive the treatment they require. With this bill, we empower people to seek the help and support they need. By helping make mental health services more accessible, we aid people to take a very important step toward overcoming the technical and social psychological barriers surrounding mental health.

Mental illnesses, like most other medical conditions, can be alleviated with treatment. When left untreated, these illnesses worsen and become a larger burden for the affected person. Because treatment is available and effective, it is a great injustice to allow financial and procedural restrictions to become yet another barrier people with mental illnesses have to overcome. Therefore, it is reasonable and fair that these illnesses receive the similar type of attention and medical coverage as other health conditions.

Mental health is a fundamental element of overall health wellness which has not been fully recognized in the past. I am confident this bill will make it possible for millions of people to improve their quality of life. I commend my colleagues for making this a reality for many of their constituents.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. "TERRY" MYLNE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. John "Terry" Mylne is one of these individuals. On December 30, 2007, John's term representing Western Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District board of directors ended. He was recently recognized for his dedicated service and retirement at a December board meeting of the Western Municipal Water District.

A fourth generation Riverside native, Terry Mylne represented the District for 29 years. He served as a Western board member from 1978 to 1995 and was on the Metropolitan board representing Western since 1993.

Prior to and during his tenure with the District, Terry excelled in every endeavor. He ob-

tained his bachelor's degree in engineering and master's degree in business administration from Stanford University, before beginning his career as manager of irrigation science for the Toro Company. He was elected to serve as a Western board member from 1978 to 1995, and served as Western's representative on the board for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California since 1993.

Terry was appointed to many Metropolitan committees during his years representing Western's interests, including serving as chairman of the finance and insurance committee, engineering and operations committee, land committee, committee on legislation, subcommittee on annexations, the facility naming ad hoc committee, and the electric industry restructuring ad hoc committee.

Terry is an active member of the Association of California Water Agencies; he has also served as director of its municipal water district section, its Joint Powers Insurance Authority board, its executive committee, and as a member of its directors and building committee.

Terry's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call John a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his term.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HOCKING COLLEGE FOR THE RECEIPT OF THE 2008 COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION AWARD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hocking College celebrates its receipt of the 2008 Council for Higher Education Accreditation Award with great joy; and

Whereas, this recognition is the result of what a hard-working people began in 1969; and

Whereas, Hocking College has unwaveringly served Ohio, its citizens, and the higher education community by providing higher education within the State of Ohio; and

Whereas, Hocking College has availed itself to prepare students in a more comprehensive manner to adapt to the needs of an increasingly technical and communicably diverse working society by voluntarily incorporating communications requirements into its curriculum; and

Whereas, Hocking College looks forward to continuing service to the citizens of Ohio and providing outstanding examples of higher education; be it

Resolved, that along with its friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Hocking College for its service, dedication and award.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2008 FEDEX ORANGE BOWL

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce House Resolution 948, which honors the University of Kansas football program on their recent victory at the Orange Bowl and their most successful year in program history.

On January 3, the KU football team won the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl, marking their first major bowl victory in university history. Leading up to the bowl game, the team placed 12 wins on their roster, setting a new school record for wins in a season. KU also reached the number two spot of the AP national poll, which marked the highest national ranking that the program has ever received.

Among their athletic accomplishments this season, the team also produced three students who received All-American titles for their performances on the field and two other students who were Academic All-American recipients. Head Coach Mark Mangino also received multiple national Coach of the Year honors.

Please join me in recognizing these accomplishments and congratulating KU on their amazing victories this season.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND VENSESLAV DIMITROFF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff of Toledo, Ohio.

The Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff, a wise and faithful servant who shepherded his family and his community around the world, departed this life on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. A beacon of hope and service to his Toledo community, he will be sincerely missed by all. He was born on July 12, 1923, in Bourgas, Bulgaria. He spent his early childhood in Edirne, Turkey where his late father, the Very Reverend Mihail Dimitroff was the principal of the former "Peter Beron" Bulgarian high school and his mother, the late Ekaterina, a teacher. His family moved to Plovdiv, Bulgaria, when he was 7 years old and he stayed there until 1944, few days before the Communist takeover of the country. He had to leave his homeland again and move to Istanbul, Turkey. He served in the Turkish Military for 4 years. He married Marina Veneziani on November 7, 1955, at Sveti Stefan Bulgarian Church where his father had become an Orthodox priest. He was ordained to the priesthood himself in March of 1961 by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople. He was elevated to Cross-bearing Archpriest in May of 1973 by the Patriarch Maxim of Bulgaria. He served at St. John of Rila Church in the Bulgarian Exarchate in Istanbul until July of 1975.

At the invitation of the late Archbishop Kyrill Yonchev and the late Mrs. Pena Evanoff, one of the founders of the St. George Bulgarian Church in Toledo, Ohio, he immigrated to the United States in August of 1975. He served the small immigrant church community until his retirement in August of 1995. Father Dimitroff was a very friendly person who enjoyed talking to people from all walks of life. He loved reading, especially Balkan history and politics, and was an avid soccer fan who loved watching all kinds of sports on television. He beautified his home and community by being a masterful gardener. His church housed a lush gorgeous garden full of flowers, especially tulips and roses.

In the summer of 1992 he fulfilled a dream to return to Bulgaria for a visit to his brother after a 48-year separation. Four years later, in 1996, through the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. George Lutikoff, he was able to revisit his family in his beloved Istanbul to spend a wonderful vacation among the members of the Bulgarian community residing there.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to the long life of a good, patient and kind man, the Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff. He lived his years in service to his family, friends, and our Toledo community. May God welcome "Ven" home; a good and faithful servant. May He shower him royally with blessings into eternity and bestow upon him a loving peace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "COOGAN'S ANNUAL SALSA, BLUES & SHAMROCKS 5K RUN" ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Coogan's Restaurant's 10th Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run, a local institution in my district that was founded on the premise that "kids who run, do better in school."

Coogan's Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run is a celebration of the strong community ties and rich cultural diversity of northern Manhattan. The scenic route circles the historic Cloisters and returns to 169th Street. The New York City Road Runners Organization, organizers of the New York City Marathon, calls this "the best road race outside of Central Park."

More than 2,500 runners of all ages including world class competitors along with local celebrities participate in the race. A collage of over 20 different musical groups including gospel, bagpipes, meringue, salsa, and brass bands will serenade the runners along the route. Hundreds of kids running their hearts out all receive their Olympic style medals awarded by local firefighters and policemen.

Races "within the race" include the Captain Frederick III, Jr. Uniform Services Race created in memory of a local firefighter who lost his life in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Participants from the Fire Department, Police Department, and Uniformed Services will compete for the Captain Frederic III, Jr. FDNY Victory Cup.

Another race within the race is the Norbert Sander High School Open named after Dr.

Norbert Sanders, M.D., founder of the Armory Foundation. This race features teams of high school students competing for trophies and awards. Winners receive \$500, to be donated to their high school sports programs.

Coogan's Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run was founded in 1998 by the managing partners of Coogan's Restaurant: David Hunt, Peter Walsh, and Tess O'Connor McDade. This five kilometer running party has been an extraordinary event ever since, packed with the pulse and flavors of one of New York City's most diverse neighborhoods.

On the 10th anniversary of this momentous race, I congratulate and offer my best wishes for the continued success of the race and its organizers. What began as a run to help children do better in school has become a remarkable accomplishment that should inspire other communities across our great Nation to pursue similar goals with devoted persistence.

IN HONOR OF REGINA WERDER O'CONNOR

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Regina Werder O'Connor on her 90th birthday. It has been my pleasure to know and work with her granddaughter, Kathleen O'Connor, who has told me about her grandmother's wonderful 90 years.

It's important in this day and age for children to grow up in a strong family environment. Gina made sure that her four children grew up in a home that valued hard work, devotion to their Faith, and love for the Buffalo Bills. Her children have now passed these values on to her many grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

Gina has also been a blessing to her community. She sacrificed many hours in service to the high schools her children attended. She has been a devoted and faithful parishioner of her beloved St. Mark's Parish for which, over the past several decades, she has sent out weekly parish bulletins to shut-in parishioners. She has also been a long-time volunteer at Sister's Hospital where she finds time to not only help those at the "Welcome" desk but also to help "the old people" she sees there.

Gina is a true pillar in the community. Her devotion to her family and commitment to helping others are examples to us all.

I would like to ask this House to extend best wishes for her upcoming birthday on March 21st and for many, many more. May her coming year be filled with happiness and good health.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN MCINTIRE LIBRARY CARNEGIE BUILDING

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the dedicated people of the John McIntire Library Carnegie Building celebrate the 100th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us the dedication and the support of the many in preserving history and information for the public; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to preserve this history in its State memorial to demonstrate the importance of knowledge, freedom of information, and education. It is also the wish of this body that you maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in our knowledge and history and the entwinement therefore, so that we may never forget the past; be it

Resolved, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Friends of the Library for your unwavering commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come from great dedication. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this library has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

CONGRATULATING THE TEHACHAPI HIGH SCHOOL WARRIORS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tehachapi High School Warriors varsity football team. The Warriors have won the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division III championship, also known as the Valley Championship.

The championship game took place on Friday, November 30, 2007. The Warriors defeated Foothill High School, 33-28, in its last game of the season to win the championship. Victory wasn't sealed until the final minutes of the fourth quarter. The Warriors, finishing the season with a record of 12-1, won their ninth CIF championship averaging 33 points per game, giving this year's team the fourth highest alltime points per game in the 78-year history of Mountain Football. Additionally, in its 13 games, the team completed 4,443 yards of offense and scored 62 touchdowns.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Tehachapi High School Warriors student athletes for their impressive championship win and their strong 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Justin Hansen, Kurtis Knudson, Franky Rodriguez, Ehren Ochsenrider, Dan Rakowski, Garrett Coontz, Josh Schulgen, Nick Howell, Derek Lange, Neal Herman, Jesse Olofson, Tyler Hack, Steve Miller, Zach Maravigli, Zeke Saavedra, Chris Marsik, J.J. Balkar, Will Clark, Adam Mullen, Richie Meister, Josh Strauss, Kelly Lorenz, Jeff Waldram, Austin Herman, Angelo Loli, Matt Henry, Louie Olofson, Byron Herman, Jason Hail, Marshall Pearson, John Cramer, Damian Rodriguez, Joey Hack, Alek Taliulu, Matt Santos, Jonathan Perrien, Vince Ortiz, Cameron Hood, Dominic Chavarria, Cody Rogers, Eric Harroun, Kevin Ruiz, Brent Hanes, Humberto Silva, John King, Jimmy Lopez, Marcus Abarquez, Ryan Rubi, Drew Howell, Steve Brass, Luke Papac, Geo Higareda, Mike Gonzalez, Tucker Kill, Phil Smith, Chris Fimbres, Shawn Pimentel, and Jon Castelblanco.

The coaching staff of the Tehachapi High School Warriors helped to lead the team throughout this incredible season. The Warrior head coach is Steve Denman. In the playoffs, Coach Denman claimed the distinction of having the most wins of any head coach in the history of football in Kern County with 223 victories. The Warriors' assistant coaching staff included Bill Carll, Pat Snyder, Dennis Ruggles, and Chris Olofson. Roger Davis and Derek Thompson were the medical staff for the team, and team videos were handled by Larry Campbell.

All of the components of the Tehachapi High School Warriors varsity football team came together in this championship season. Their stellar teamwork, combined with months of physical and mental training, enabled the Warriors to win this Valley Championship. I am sure that this experience will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I commend the Tehachapi High School Warriors on winning the 2007 Valley Championship. I know the parents, teachers, neighbors, and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Sandoval County, New Mexico celebrated its 105th anniversary yesterday, March 10, 2008. Please join me in recognizing the historical importance and many achievements and contributions the residents of this county have provided the State of New Mexico.

Sandoval County was a thriving area centuries before Don Francisco de Coronado explored the area and first made camp near present-day Bernalillo in 1540 A.D. Prehistoric artifacts in many areas of the county date back thousands of years, with archaeological finds suggesting that Sandia Man lived and hunted in the area thousands of years ago.

The area, consisting of modern-day Sandoval County, was included in one of two partidos, or districts, created in the New Mexico territory. It became part of Santa Ana County. One of seven political subdivisions created in 1852, Sandoval County was first established as a separate entity on March 10, 1903, nine years before New Mexico's statehood. The area that forms Los Alamos County was separated from Sandoval County in 1949.

Sandoval County boasts historical sites such as Coronado State Park, Bandalier National Monument, the Ceremonial Caves Trail, Jemez Springs, Casa San Ysidro, the historic Delacy House, the Vintage Auto Museum, and the Intel Museum.

Sandoval County is one of the most geographically and culturally diverse areas in the Nation. Congratulations on your 105th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 6, 2008.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 94, 95, 96, 99, 101, 103, 104, 106, and 107 and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 97, 98, 100, 102, and 105.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT (H.R. 5351)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the long overdue Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. The American people have demanded that Congress change our national energy policy; we must prioritize clean energy over greenhouse gas emitting fuels, and support entrepreneurial American energy producers over oil companies posting record profits.

H.R. 5351 extends tax credits for renewable energy production and pays for them by repealing large subsidies for oil and gas corporations. The domestic green energy sector creates thousands of high-paying jobs each year and has seen tremendous growth recently except when Congress has let these incentives expire. Congress must provide this industry the support and consistency it needs to become a major supplier of both energy and jobs.

This legislation also gives a tax break to consumers who purchase a hybrid vehicle and ends the perverse incentive to purchase gas-guzzling SUVs. If our Nation's automakers are to remain competitive, we must end the policies that encourage production of the cars of yesterday—cars that cost more to own and take a higher toll on our planet.

Many on the other side of the aisle have decried this legislation under the false assumption that it will raise gas prices at the pump, that it will discourage domestic exploration and production. They say this even though President Bush—at a time when the cost of oil was half of what it is today—asserted that such subsidies were not necessary to spur domestic oil and gas exploration and production. The record oil prices of over \$100 per barrel—leading to gas prices headed toward \$4 per gallon—are more than enough of an incentive. In fact, these tax breaks for big-oil take money, even failed to lower gas prices when they were implemented, and today serve only to redistribute billions of dollars from hard-working American families to literally five corporations, including Exxon, which recently reported higher profits than any other company in history.

In a time of an uncertain economic outlook, it is more critical than ever that we invest in

the energy sources and industries of tomorrow, and address the realities of climate change, rather than continue down the misguided path of President Bush and the previous Republican Congresses—a path that has led us to an unprecedented dependence on foreign oil, skyrocketing gas prices, and economic recession.

Once again, I urge passage of this legislation—legislation with broad support from industry, the environmental community, and even power companies—and I thank Speaker PELOSI and Chairman RANGEL for making energy security a priority for the 110th Congress.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concerns with H.R. 1424, the “Paul Wellstone Mental Health Addiction and Equity Act of 2007.” First, let me say I am a strong supporter of providing mental health parity and was pleased to support the alternative in the House Education and Labor Committee during mark-up. Senate bill 558 is a reasonable approach that will protect consumers and insurance providers alike and why it passed the Senate under unanimous consent. Unfortunately, the bill under consideration today in the House constitutes a costly employer mandate that has the potential to increase costs, leading to decreased coverage. The Congressional Budget Office estimates H.R. 1424 would impose mandates on private insurance companies totaling \$3 billion annually by 2012. These costs will ultimately hit employers offering health insurance and employees seeking to obtain coverage.

Furthermore, I am concerned with using a substantial increase in the Medicaid prescription drug rebate as one of the offsets to pay for this legislation. This increase raises the basic rebate on innovator brand pharmaceutical companies by 33 percent. Increasing the discounts prescription drug manufacturers already provide the government under Medicaid could stifle innovation in the development of future treatments. My constituents yearn for the latest breakthrough therapies for cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and so many other diseases. We owe it to them to encourage that innovation and not hinder its development with federal legislation.

These are just two examples of why we should oppose H.R. 1424. I would urge my colleagues to support the reasonable alternative House Republicans will bring to the floor today.

RALPH TEMPLE TO RECEIVE
ACLU–NCA BARTH AWARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, the American Civil Liberties Union of the National

Capital Area on March 18, 2008, will present to Attorney Ralph J. Temple their Annual Alan and Adrienne Barth Award for exemplary volunteer service. Alan Barth was a founder of the ACLU–NCA, and Adrienne Barth was an ACLU activist in her own right, a regular weekly legal intake volunteer for decades.

Legions of friends, fellow lawyers, past clients and others, who have been so inspired, over the years, by the bold, trailblazing and trend-setting efforts of Ralph Temple are expected to gather at the luncheon. His defense in particular of matters involving the first amendment is noteworthy and typified his tenure with the ACLU and in other venues.

In April 2000 in connection with DC police mass arrests of World Trade protesters, Ralph prepared a series of memoranda presenting a strategy for challenging mass arrests, based on ACLU–NCA's 1960s and 1970s victories against the mass arrests of anti-Vietnam war protesters. Those memoranda were supportive of litigation culminating in the unprecedented 2004 settlement in *Abbate v. Ramsey*, requiring across the board reform in DC police mass demonstration policies and practices. In December 2003 Ralph wrote the ACLU–NCA's report, “The Policing of Demonstrations in the Nation's Capital: A Misconception of Mission and a Failure of Leadership.” On December 17, 2003, his report was presented to the District of Columbia Council along with Ralph's 1½ hours of testimony as a special witness, and significantly contributed to the council's enactment of the Police Standards Act of 2004, the Nation's most profound legislation restricting police conduct during mass demonstrations, legislation that has helped to illuminate the vital importance of free speech to our constitutional Government.

In 1975, he was involved in *A Quaker Action Group v. Morton*, 7-year litigation, that produced five opinions by the U.S. Court of Appeals and culminated in invalidating restrictions the Government tried to impose on demonstrations at the White House. In 1972, he was involved in *Jeannette Rankin Brigade v. Chief of the Capitol Police*, wherein the Court invalidated a statute prohibiting demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol, based on the record established by the ACLU in *U.S. v. Nicholson*. He was involved in *Women Strike for Peace v. Morton*, a case that forced the Government to allow protest activities and displays in Federal parks on the same basis that civic or religious activities and displays are allowed, and in *Sullivan v. Murphy*, another of Ralph's cases, the Court enjoined prosecution of 14,517 people arrested during anti-Vietnam war protests during May Week 1971, the largest mass arrests in American history, and ordered expungement of arrest records.

In 1971, he was involved in *Dellums v. Powell*, *McCarthy v. Kleindienst*, *Knable v. Wilson* and *Tatum v. Wilson*, wherein the ACLU won a class action jury verdict in *Dellums*, judge verdict in *Tatum*, and obtained settlements in the other cases, recovering over \$5 million in damages for the wrongful arrests in May Week 1971; and in *Washington Mobilization v. Cullinane*, another of Ralph's cases, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals reversed an injunction against police sweep arrests, indiscriminate violence, and protracted booking procedures.

Madam Speaker, censorship has never been the best answer to bad speech. The best answer is more speech, good speech, free

speech. Throughout his illustrious career, Ralph Temple has been a steadfast defender of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and especially our First Amendment Freedoms, even when the causes he defended may not have been popular. It is fitting, therefore, that the ACLU of the National Capital Area recognize Ralph with the Barth Award. There are many wonderful things about America.

CONGRATULATING THE BAKERSFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL DRILLERS
VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the student athletes and coaches of the Bakersfield High School Drillers varsity football team on winning the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division I title.

On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Drillers defeated Clovis West High School 19–16 in its last game of the season to win the title. This was truly an outstanding achievement to wrap up a near perfect season, a season where the Drillers finished with a record of 13–1. The Driller victory marked the 34th Central Section football championship for Bakersfield High School. Driller football fans, students and the Bakersfield community were treated to an exciting championship game where in the fourth quarter with a tied score and 25 seconds left, the Drillers' skill, training, hard work, and athleticism paid off with an emotional 43-yard field goal victory.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Bakersfield High School Drillers student athletes for their impressive championship win and 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Tim Etchevery, Emanuel Turner, Matthew Varvel, Alfonso Jackson, Marcus Nelson, Alex Mitchell, George Ming, Craig McMahon, Donovan Littles, Peter Mitchell, Mark Durando, Cooper Damron, Jerek Johnson, James Diaz, Jesus Mora, Emmanuel Ojeriakhi, Vince Van Horne, Demetri Katsantonis, Criston Moore, Irving Gant, Johnny Noorwood, Kenneth Wallace, Anthony Padilla, Sean Andrew, Louie Miranda, Emilio Cantu, Tevin Jackson, Johnny DePina, Kyle Billington, Collin Ellis, Mitch Knoy, Joel Turrubiates, Johnny Ghilarducci, Peter Welsh, Jake Hunt, Vincent Morales, Jacob Miller, Jason Erickson, Blake Pursel, Joe Benyon, Jamaal Littles, Patrick Parker, Saige White, Charles Anderson, Keith Fingers, Christian Selby, Stephen Schroeter, Chris Landa, Gabriel Cardenes, Mark Van Kopp, Joshua Rojas, Max Hefflin, Dakota Velasquez and Jeovany Nunez.

I also want to congratulate the coaching and support staff who helped lead the team to its championship season. The Driller head coach is Paul Golla and his coaching team includes Sean McKeown, Chris Rzewuski, Lance McCullah, Kirk Erickson, Josh Canales, Clint Tobias, Gus Theodore, Pete Mitchell, John Bumerts, Chad Stoner, and Adam Levinson. Supporting the team is Dean of Athletics Jeff Scott, Physical Therapist Kurt Wingate, Dr. Nick Valos, Trainer Big Joe and Trainer Steve Johns.

Participation in athletics is a wonderful component of a high school education because it

provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork and competition. The months of physical and mental training and the teamwork that was required to win this Central Section Division I title will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I once again commend the Bakersfield High School Drillers on winning the 2007 Central Section Division I title. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the 2007 Drillers football team, and I know the parents, teachers, neighbors and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 111, a motion by Mr. GOHMERT of Texas that the House do now adjourn.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is March 11, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,832 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have been given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,832 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is March 11, 2008—12,832 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, regarding the H.R. 1424, the Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, I have previously shared with my colleagues in this body my serious concerns with several provisions in this Act. I

have stated my sincere conviction that this bill, if signed into law, will result in increased overall health care costs, increased mental health costs, and decreased mental health coverage for many Americans. Let me share just a few more problems with this well meaning but misguided legislation.

I am concerned with the use of a 33 percent increase in the Medicaid prescription drug rebate as one of the offsets to pay for this legislation. This represents a significant increase. In fact, it hits the innovator pharmaceutical companies almost double what we might think. While we might have the cost of mental health parity offset by about \$1.7 billion over 5 years, that is \$1.7 billion to the Federal Government. The cost to the research pharmaceutical companies is nearly double that amount because their rebate is split between the Federal Government and the States. This is a double hit to an industry that Americans rely on to find life-saving treatments for cancer, Parkinson's disease, HIV/AIDS and mental illness.

Furthermore, as a physician I have seen first-hand the stifling impact price controls have on innovation and who loses in that equation—patients do. We only have to look to Europe as recently as the 1990s for evidence of the failure of drug price controls. Once the world's leader in research and development for new cures, Europe has been surpassed by the United States who had committed 24 percent more to pharmaceutical R&D by 2002. Therefore, I urge the sponsors of this bill to find a more equitable offset and not one that could have such a negative impact on a single industry.

HONORING KIDS AGAINST HUNGER—FOX VALLEY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fox Valley Chapter of Kids Against Hunger, located in Roselle, Illinois.

Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide nutritious food to impoverished children around the world.

The Fox Valley chapter of Kids Against Hunger located in my district focuses on providing meals to impoverished families in Nicaragua. As the second poorest nation in its hemisphere, 80 percent of Nicaragua's population lives on less than \$2 a day.

In 2007, 140 youth and adult volunteers at the Fox Valley Chapter of Kids Against Hunger packaged and provided more than 108,440 meals.

Pastor Darrel Malcom, from Poplar Creek Church in Bartlett, Illinois, recently traveled to Nicaragua to observe the food being received. He visited the Casa Bernabe Orphanage, where several hundred of the Kids Against Hunger meals were distributed. Pastor Malcom had an opportunity to see firsthand the incredible impact Kids Against Hunger is having.

In addition to serving the needy in Nicaragua, Kids Against Hunger serves individuals right here in our own communities, including Streamwood, Illinois. More than 110 seniors in DuPage and Kane Counties have received humanitarian services through the Fox Valley Chapter.

Currently, the Kids Against Hunger—Fox Valley Chapter, is looking for volunteers and funds to continue the production of meals. Additionally, they are looking for areas to host “packaging events” so that they can continue to expand their services.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in honoring the Fox Valley Chapter of Kids Against Hunger for their outstanding work to date, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am unequivocal in my support for the security of Israel and its citizens. I am committed to the right of all people in the Middle East, and the world, to live peacefully. However, because of H. Res. 951's overt lack of balance and its unreconciliatory approach, I oppose this bill.

The resolution appropriately “expresses condolences to the families of the innocent victims on both sides of the conflict.” However, H. Res. 951 fails to take a balanced approach to the ongoing violence in Gaza by acknowledging only the rocket and mortar attacks fired on Israel while making no mention of Israel's use of force in the region other than to acknowledge “the sovereign right of the Government of Israel to defend its territory against attacks.”

The resolution states that the “rocket and mortar attacks have murdered over a dozen Israelis, inflicted hundreds of casualties, produced thousands of cases of shock and post-traumatic stress, especially among children, and caused severe disruption of daily life.”

The resolution fails to take into account the 117 Palestinians killed in Gaza over the last week or to mention that half of these victims were civilians and at least 22 were children.

Furthermore, the resolution makes no mention of the ongoing Israeli-imposed blockade on Gaza that has cut off Palestinians from fuel supplies and prevented the delivery of food and medical supplies to the Gaza Strip. According to a recent report by Oxfam and other humanitarian organizations, “the blockade has effectively dismantled the economy and impoverished the population of Gaza. Israel's policy affects the civilian population of Gaza indiscriminately and constitutes a collective punishment against ordinary men, women and children. The measures taken are illegal under international humanitarian law.”

How can the U.S. be an honest broker for peace if we fail to acknowledge the suffering, as well as the rights, of the people on all sides of this ongoing conflict? To broker a viable peace, we must address the long-standing and structural issues that exacerbate the conflict rather than sweep over them in our condemnation of its symptomatic violence.

The United States must seek to prevent violence and human casualty by setting the stage for productive exchanges which can lead to mutual understanding, security and peace. To achieve this peace it is necessary to integrate an open dialogue with diplomatic negotiations aimed at ending all violence and human suffering. Our involvement in the Middle East should aim to coalesce alienated forces rather than drive them farther apart from one another

and from a viable solution. Israelis and Palestinians share a mutual future. Therefore, we should set the stage for productive exchanges which can lead to mutual understanding, security and peace.

HONORING BRODES H. HARTLEY, JR.

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a distinguished community leader and true humanitarian, Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. For over two decades Mr. Hartley has done an outstanding job maintaining a high level of care to the nearly 40,000 patients of Community Health of South Dade, Inc.

The “Patient Care Comes First” motto he developed, demonstrates that he puts patient's interests above those of the organization, creating an environment in which those in need receive the best possible care. His willingness to take time for concerned patients, as well as to help shape the next generation in healthcare providers, through mentoring, has established him as a community leader.

Brodes H. Hartley, Jr., has accomplished the goal he set out from the beginning, to deliver safe, compassionate, accessible, and culturally competent quality health care service to the people of South Florida. I am very grateful for his contribution to our community and honored to call him my friend.